

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 12, 2011

Proclaim April 10 through April 16, 2011 as Safety Seat Check-Up Week

The number one preventable cause of death and injury to children and young adults is the automobile collision. More than 90 child passengers under the age of fifteen years are killed and more than 10,000 child passengers are injured in automobile collisions in California alone each year. 71% of fatalities of small children between the ages of 0 to four in motor vehicle crashes can be avoided by properly restraining them in child safety seats; 45% of injuries to child occupants between the ages of four to eight could be prevented with the use of booster seats.

The State of California requires all occupants of motor vehicles to be buckled up correctly or properly restrained in safety seats or booster seats on every ride. In addition, young children must ride in the back seat, properly buckled-up in safety seats or booster seats until at least age six or 60 pounds.

Crash-tested safety seats are moderately priced and widely available for purchase at retail stores and at low cost from safety seat distribution programs throughout California. These programs allowed California's child safety seat usage rate to reach a record high of 94% in 2008, but this rate since dropped to 91% in 2009. Also, studies show that among those who use child safety seats, more than 90% are used incorrectly.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

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APRIL 12, 2011
PAGE 2

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is the national, non-profit organization dedicated to child passenger safety and their mission is to help reduce the number of serious and fatal traffic injuries suffered by children by promoting the correct and consistent use of safety seats and safety belts. Founded in 1980, it is nationally recognized for program excellence, training, and up-to-date technical materials. In addition, they provide consultation to advocates, parents, business leaders, the media, and professionals working in the fields of health care, traffic safety, and education.

On April 16th, 2011, families who want to participate in Safety Seat Check-up Day are able to drive to the Peterson Automotive Museum at 6060 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., where trained volunteers will conduct a detailed inspection of their safety seats and the way they are being used. In addition, parents will be told if the safety seats have been recalled or need replacement parts and will be shown how to use them correctly.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the week of April 10th through April 16th as Safety Seat Check-Up week throughout the County of Los Angeles, and in doing so, join SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. in this effort to promote child safety awareness to protect children from injury or death while being transported in a motor vehicle.

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